

Ravage Continues Far Into Day; Gunfire and Bottles Beset Police

By SELWYN RAAB

Widespread looting in New York City had been in touch with court officials continued into the daylight hours yesterday in the aftermath of the blackout, with more than 3,300 people arrested and had been "assured [the looters] will be punished."

Looters did not confine themselves to small appliances or even furniture. In the Bronx, an automobile dealer said a steel door and window in his showroom had been smashed and 50 new cars driven away.

The mass arrests created severe overcrowding in the city's prisons and long delays in the arraignment courts. The city obtained permission from Federal judges to temporarily reopen the Tombs prison in Manhattan, and at least one juvenile jail, which had been closed by the courts because of their decrepit condition.

The arraignment process was snagged by the slowness in checking the criminal records of the 3,300 suspects because of the power failure interfered with a central computer system in Albany.

There were scattered complaints from businessmen and bystanders that the police sometimes ignored the looters.

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The New York Times/Tyrone Dukes

In Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant looters acted swiftly as store alarms were silenced by the power cutoff.

The New York Times

Published: July 15, 1977

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Ravage Continues Far Into the Day as Gunfire and Bottles Plague Police

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However, in making arrests and dispersing rioters, more than 80 policemen were injured, including one officer in the Bronx who was shot in the leg. Other officers came under attack from snipers and rock and bottle throwers.

One looting suspect was shot and killed by a Brooklyn merchant in the Fort Greene section.

One Harlem youth was shot dead and another was wounded after they looted a liquor store at 2764 Eighth Avenue the police reported. The owner of the liquor store, who has a pistol permit, was questioned in the incident, the police said, but she denied doing the shooting.

Along with the looting, a wave of fires—many of them believed to be the work of arsonists—plagued the Fire Department. At one suspicious fire in Brooklyn's Bushwick section, 22 firemen were injured.

In the Ocean Hill section of Brooklyn a fire that started in a looted factory warehouse leaped across the street and destroyed four tenements, then spread to two other houses behind the warehouse.

Assistant Fire Chief Adolph Tortoriello

said that firemen had been called to the scene—at Stone Avenue and Somers Street—one hour earlier and extinguished a small blaze. Chief Tortoriello said it "definitely" appeared to be a case of arson.

Firemen fought the later blaze, which went to five alarms, for about three hours before bringing it under control shortly before 9 P.M.

Chief Tortoriello said that about 20 families lived in four of the buildings destroyed by the fire. He estimated that about 30 people were evacuated.

Of the four buildings on the other side of Stone Street, only two were occupied.

According to several witnesses, the factory housed an appliance warehouse on its lower floor and a small garment factory upstairs. The looting reportedly took place in the appliance section.

Even after the blaze had been brought under control, the cellar of the factory resembled a coke oven in a steel factory, filled with hot coals and flames.

According to firemen, it took only 45 minutes for the building to collapse after the fire began.

Police officials were unable to determine which of the vandalized areas had

sustained the most damage. But a Fire Department spokesman said a fire-ravaged commercial area on Broadway in Bushwick was the city's worst-hit section.

For most of yesterday, the police maintained a force of 11,000 officers and supervisors to cope with the robberies and thefts. All days off were canceled, and officers were assigned to 12-or 16-hour work tours.

However, at the height of the disturbances yesterday, between midnight and 4 A.M., the police were able to muster fewer than 8,000 of their 25,000 officers and supervisors. About 10,000 officers who were neither on vacation nor sick leave apparently failed to heed, or did not hear of, Police Commissioner Michael J. Codd's order to report to duty immediately.

A sergeant in Brooklyn's 78th Precinct said many policemen disregarded Commissioner Codd's order because they were "disgruntled" over working conditions.

The crime outburst during the power failure contrasted sharply with the last massive blackout 12 years ago. At that time, there were 96 arrests, mainly for minor offenses, with no attacks on the police and no looting.

Almost as soon as the lights went out

Wednesday, the police were flooded with reports of muggings, pocketbook snatchings and numerous break-ins at stores.

Before the sun rose, gunfire crackled in many neighborhoods with the police reporting that they were under sniper fire. At the 24th Precinct station house on Manhattan's West Side, a desk officer confirmed that "there were quite a few shots fired all around the West Side" but he was unable to say whether it was sniper fire or police trying to disperse looters.

Dr. Steven Mills, director of the emergency room at Harlem Hospital, said that "a lot of gunshot wound" cases were brought into the hospital although he could not give specific numbers.

Most of the patients with bullet wounds told hospital personnel that they had been "shot while running away," Dr. Mills said.

Although helmeted policemen carrying riot clubs were out in greater force by daylight, the officers were unable to completely halt the looting. At the Strauss Auto Supply Store at 110th Street and Eighth Avenue, the doors were smashed open, and dozens of people were carting off appliances. One woman in her middle 50's, carrying a shopping bag, walked into the store and said laughingly: "Shopping with no money required."

On 138th Street between Brook Avenue and Cyprus Avenue in the South Bronx, policemen were bombarded with bricks and bottles when they tried to clear out looters from stores. The police eventually closed the street to traffic and routed the vandals from the roofs, where they found stockpiles of bricks and bottles.

"Twenty businesses have been wiped out in this neighborhood, including jewelry stores, pawn shops, supermarkets and liquor stores," said Detective Thomas Lonergan. "It's just like war."

On Ralph Avenue in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section, men and women were helping themselves to canned goods inside a supermarket.

Among the major incidents reported yesterday were these:

At the Ace Pontiac Showroom, 1921 Jerome Avenue in the University Heights section of the Bronx, 50 new cars, valued at \$250,000 were stolen. Carl Neufeld, the owner, said a steel door and windows had been smashed to drive the cars out of the showroom.

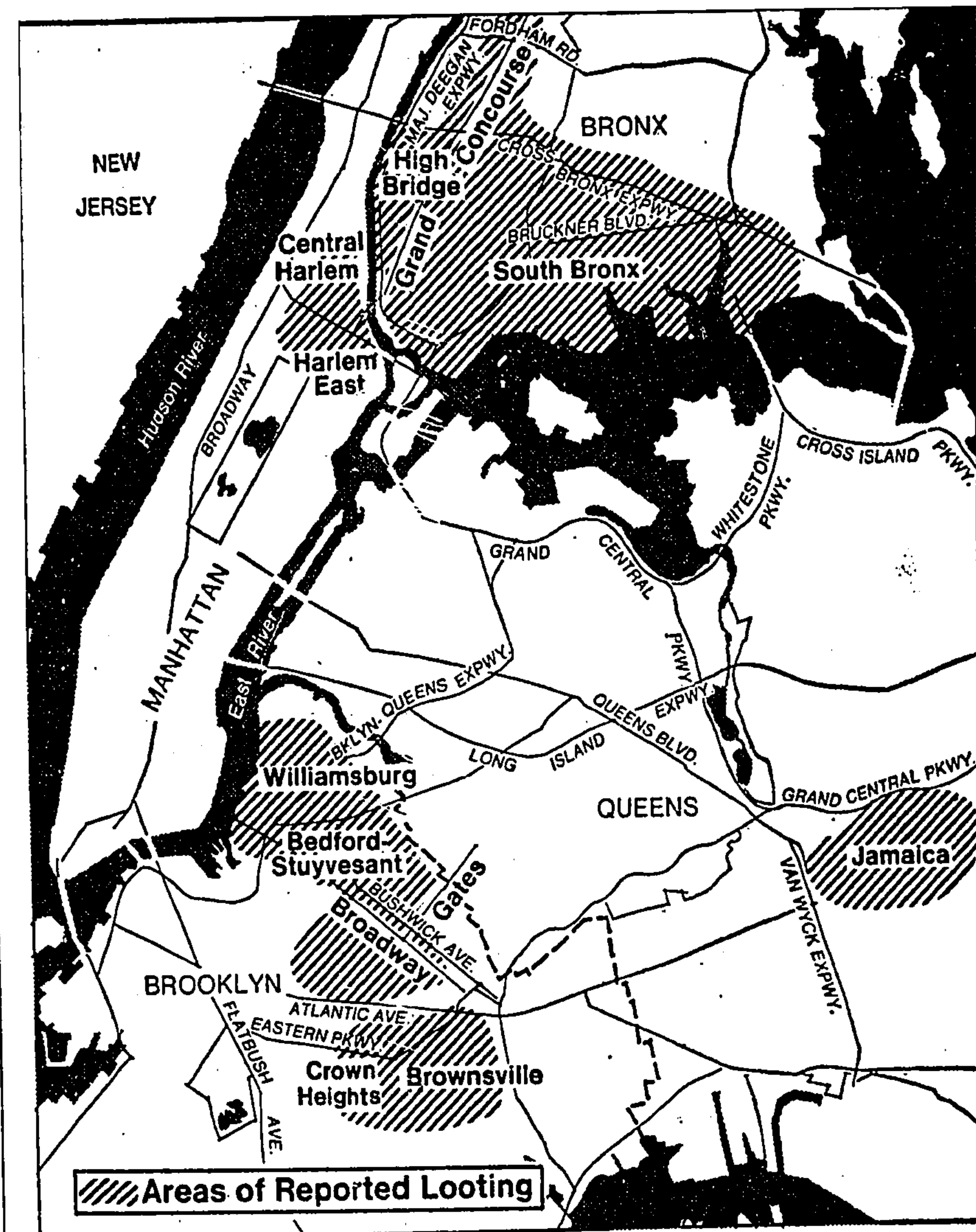
Along East 14th Street, youths roamed the streets, snatching purses from women.

In Jamaica, Queens, 32 stores were smashed open, with most of the targets jewelry, liquor and record stores. Most of the windows were broken by tossing city litter baskets through them.

Throughout the city, groups of 30 to 40 people, mainly teen-agers, gathered outside the vandalized stores, urging one another: "Let's do it, let's do it." After breaking into a store, they fled upon hearing a police siren. But, soon after, if not arrested, they would smash another window or pull apart a protective door grating.

Officer Gary Parlefsky of the 30th Precinct in Harlem said that, while trying to arrest looters, he and other officers came under fire from guns, bottles and rocks.

"We were scared to death," said the



The New York Times/July 15, 1977



The New York Times/Barton Silverman

Youngsters, some carrying shoes, leap from window of the shoe store on East 122d Street at Third Avenue

30-year-old policeman. "Anyone who says he was not is lying—but worse than that, the blue uniform didn't mean a thing."

"They couldn't understand why we were arresting them," continued Officer Parlefsky. "They were angry with us. They said: 'I'm on welfare. I'm taking what I need. What are you bothering me for.'"

Officer Parlefsky said he had a method for identifying looters. "If he holds a flashlight and his other hand is wrapped in a towel, it's a looter," he explained.

Many merchants rushed to their stores with guns to guard against looting. The police said that Dave Geller, a 44-year-old druggist at 392 Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn shot and killed a looter who broke into his store.

Of the first 2,718 arrests related to the blackout, the police reported that the Bronx had 915; Brooklyn, 890; Manhattan, 750; Queens, 161; and Staten Island, 2.

The Bronx House of Detention was the only city prison that experienced any disturbances. Correction Commissioner Benjamin J. Malcolm, personally led a squad of correction officers armed with nightstick and shields, to retake dormitories where inmates were rioting on Wednesday night and early yesterday. There were no serious injuries reported.

The only police officer reported to have been seriously injured yesterday was James Davey, 29 years old, who was shot in the leg while trying to prevent a group of youths from breaking into a

store on Burnside Avenue in the Bronx. Governor Carey ordered 250 state troopers sent to the city last night to assist the police in directing traffic at intersections where street lights were still out because of the power failure.